



Furthermore, we are bound to look at the matter from every point of view, for there are advantages as well as disadvantages in using this type of land. Many of us are painfully aware of the disadvantages, so let us look at some of the advantages:—

- (1) It can be acquired quickly.
- (2) It can be acquired without cost either to the local authority or the State.
- (3) It is the only type of land which can be obtained in some districts.
- (4) It is eminently suitable for those who do not intend to cultivate an allotment after the war.

There is nothing, however, to prevent local authorities acquiring by agreement land on lease, provided the income from rents meets the outgoings, and in some cases it will pay the owners to let it on reasonable terms and thus derive some income from it. Some little delay may be experienced in putting such land at the disposal of allotment holders owing to formalities which usually take up an interminable length of time. It is expected, however, that landlords will, as a patriotic duty, do everything possible to expedite matters.

The purchase of land for permanent allotments is at present out of the question owing to the difficulty of getting the Treasury to sanction loans. One other thing which should be mentioned is that, in exceptional cases, the Ministry of Agriculture will make up the losses incurred by local authorities in acquiring allotments to the extent of £2 per acre.

There are many safeguards to prevent abuse, and if any landlord or local authority is under the impression that the £2 is a bribe to obtain land for allotments they will have a rude awakening. Any landlord who tries to take advantage of the present emergency to extort more than a reasonable rent for his land and puts obstacles in the way is an enemy of the State and should be dealt with as such. Fortunately the overwhelming number of landlords are well disposed towards our movement, and very few cases of the kind indicated are likely to arise.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR MOVEMENT

We have not only got to "Keep the home fires burning" and "Keep the pot boiling," but we have got to grow the produce which goes into the pot. And we can only do that by setting many more thousands of people digging. If the scores of applications for allotments which are pouring into the N.A.S. offices by every post are any indication of the desire for allotments generally, then it should not be difficult to enlist an army of voluntary food raisers. But nothing must be left to chance. The only way to achieve the desired object is by sound organisation and persistent effort. A few suggestions are therefore